

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 2 as shown.

1. (original) A universal tie-down rail for securing a cargo in a vehicle comprising: a cylindrical tube; a pair of brackets made from an aluminum extrusion, each of said brackets having an upper circular thin wall portion, an adjoining downward extending substantially vertical wall portion and an adjoining lower base portion and being slidably mounted on said tube and rotatable about an axis of said tube; and a fastener threadably engaging each of said brackets for clamping said brackets to said tube.

2. (currently amended) The universal tie-down ~~bar~~ rail recited in claim 1 further comprising at least one bracket between said pair of brackets for reducing bending stresses in said thin wall tube.

3. (original) A universal tie-down rail for securing a cargo in a vehicle comprising a cylindrical tube; at least one pair of brackets made from an aluminum extrusion, said brackets being slideably mounted on said tube and rotatable about an axis of said tube; and a means in each of said brackets for fixing said brackets to said tube.

4. (original) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 wherein said vehicle is a pick-up truck.

5. (original) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 wherein said vehicle is a van.

6. (original) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 wherein said vehicle is a station wagon.

7. (original) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 wherein each of said brackets is comprised of having an upper circular thin wall portion, an adjoining downward extending substantially vertical wall portion and an adjoining lower base portion.

8. (withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a tie-down rail comprised of the following steps: forming an aluminum extrusion blank in a die; cutting said blank to form a pair of mounting brackets; tapping a hole in each of said brackets for threadably engaging a clamping screw; applying a finish to each of said brackets by painting, plating or anodizing; partially engaging said socket head clamping screws with said threaded holes in each of said brackets; cutting a thin wall tube having an outside diameter which closely fits an inside of an aperture in each of the brackets to a specified length; assembling each of said brackets on to said thin wall tube; clamping said brackets to said thin wall tube by tightening each of said screws.

9. (withdrawn) The method recited in claim 8 further comprising the step of closing opposite open ends of said thin wall tube with caps.

10. (withdrawn) The method recited in claim 8 further comprising the steps of cutting at least one additional bracket from said extrusion blank and assembling said additional bracket to said thin wall tube.